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## New Soviet Buildings Have Lots of Light, Little Air

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Tass from Sovfoto

On Kalinin Avenue, as elsewhere in Moscow, new office buildings of glass and steel are changing the skyline

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MOSCOW, Aug. 27—Glass and steel architecture, dominant in Soviet construction in recent years, is rapidly transforming the skyline of Moscow, but Soviet architects and builders have overlooked something in their passion for glass—fresh air.

Modern office buildings, hotels and apartment houses,

their large expanses of glass flashing brilliantly in the summer sun, tower above the cupolas of centuries-old Russian Orthodox churches.

Attractive glass cafe, shops and hairdressing salons stand in gleaming contrast to ponderous, heavily ornamented brick and stucco buildings.

Yet the glass palaces often lack windows that open.

Most of them also lack fans, ventilation and air-conditioning.

When the summer sun burns through the glass, the result is misery. Office workers gasp and wilt at their desks. Diners in restaurants perspire in a stifling atmosphere, besieged by heavy odors of broscht and frying meat from the kitchen. Women wither in agony in

crowded hairdressing salons waiting for appointments with equally suffering employees.

Occasionally, when the heat becomes unbearable and the stale air's carbon dioxide content dangerous, a crowded office has to be exacuated. In the city of Kuibyshev, on the central Volga, medical

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CIA-RDP92B01039R002204380026-1 *es Skimpy on Air*

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authorities ordered that a glass school, the pride of local architecture, be closed because of the carbon dioxide hazard to the pupils.

The plight of the victims of glass architecture is poignantly described by Boris Yegorov, a Soviet humorist, in the latest edition of the satirical journal Krokodil.

Depicting the glassy-eyed suffering of people in unventilated glass stores, hotels and other buildings, he scornfully asks architects:

"Is it possible that you failed to realize that such buildings, visited by thousands of people each day, must have some form of ventilation?"

Air-conditioning is the obvious answer. Mr. Yegorov con-

were built or how to operate them. There are no repairmen and no instruction books. There is no organization responsible for the service and repair of air-conditioning units."

The neglect of ventilation needs in glass buildings, the humorist says, was most distressingly illustrated in the Kuibyshev school that was ordered closed, a trim structure for 2,000 children.

field meets only a small fraction of the demand. Even among the few air-conditioning installations in large buildings, he adds, only one of five is in operating condition.

"The others stand idle," Mr. Yegorov complains.

"They stand idle because nobody understands how they

Medical authorities issued the following indictment of the

"An analysis of the air in the classrooms showed that the content of carbon dioxide exceeded acceptable norms by 1.8 to 2.6 times. This causes pupils to faint and to suffer nosebleeds and headaches, requiring urgent medical help for large groups."

Undaunted by the stones being thrown at their glass structures, Soviet architects and builders are pressing on with projects in Moscow and other leading cities.

Recently, plans were disclosed for the construction of a 65-story glass and steel headquarters for the Ministry of Power and Electrification. This skyscraper would be twice as high as the city's present tallest building, the University of Mos-

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